

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6588
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002
OIL EXPLORATION IN RAJASTHAN
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the places where oil exploratory drilling is in progress in Thar Desert area of Rajasthan and names of the companies engaged for the purpose;
- (b): the total amount spent by these companies on survey and exploratory drilling work during the last three years;
- (c): whether the Government have analysed the inflow of information from the exploratory work during the said period;
- (d): if so, the details thereof; and
- (e): the action proposed to be taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) & (b): At present, no exploratory well is under drilling in the Thar desert area of Rajasthan, either by National Oil Companies (NOCs) or by Private/JV companies. A total amount of about Rs. 37 crores has been spent in this area by NOCs on survey and exploratory drilling work in their nomination areas during the last three years. Additionally, about Rs. 137 crores has been spent by Private/JV companies on exploration works in their blocks during the same period.

(c) to (e): In the overall area of Thar desert, the following developments have taken place:-

(i) 2-D seismic data acquired by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) during the period 1999-2002 has led to generation of one prospect in Miajalar area while data in other area has been processed and is under interpretation.

(ii) Two exploratory wells have been drilled by Oil India Ltd. (OIL) during the last three years out of which gas has been struck in one well and another well was found dry.

(iii) Exploration work by Private/JV companies in block RJ-ON-90/1 has resulted in oil discovery in two wells in the block. The presence of oil has also been established in one well in block RJ-ON/5. The exploration work in block RJ-ON/6 has also started recently.

ONGC plans to take up identified prospects in Miajalar area for drilling during 2002-03 subject to environmental clearance. OIL is carrying out a detailed basin modelling study incorporating the past exploratory/development inputs so far obtained in its operational areas in Rajasthan for prospect identification and based on the study results, future exploratory work will be decided.

The contractors have planned to further explore their areas and appraise the discoveries for commercial production in so far as Private/JV companies are concerned.